## **District Court Judge**

### Peter Froehlich, First Judicial District



**DATE OF BIRTH:** June 1, 1947

PLACE OF BIRTH: Minneapolis, Minnesota

NAME OF SPOUSE: Elsa Demeksa

CHILDREN: Kaleb (20), Ephraim (16)

**LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN ALASKA: 32 years** 

#### **EDUCATION:**

Marquette University (Milwaukee, Wisconsin), 1965-1969, B.S.; Willamette University (Salem, Oregon), 1973-1975, J.D.

#### **POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENT POSITIONS:**

Assistant Attorney General, 1982-1989, 1976-1979; counsel, House Judiciary Committee, 1981; summer intern, Ketchikan District Attorney's Office, 1974.

#### **BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:**

Alaska and Juneau Bar Associations, 1976-present; faculty moderator, National Judicial College, 1997; Jury Subcommittee to Fairness and Access Committee, 1996-1997; Conference of Alaska Judges, 1990-1994; president, board member, Alaska Bar Association Ethics Committee, 1991-1994; Code Revision Commission, 1986-1990; commercial fisherman, 1970-1981.

#### SERVICE ORGANIZATION(S) MEMBERSHIP:

Mayor's Task Forces on Youth and on Sobriety; Boys & Girls Club Board; Youth Court Board; ALSC Pro Bono Program; board member, United Way of Southeast; president, Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

#### **SPECIAL INTERESTS:**

Family, sports, coaching, fishing, hiking.

#### OTHER:

Youth program volunteer of the year, 2002; six courses at the National Judicial College, 1990-present; University of Washington Law School, summer 1974; University of Alaska Anchorage graduate work, 1972.

#### **STATEMENT:**

It has been a great honor to serve the people of Juneau and northern Southeast Alaska as your District Court Judge for the past 13 years. It is a daunting responsibility, but also truly a privilege. When I was sworn in on August 1, 1989, I promised to do the very best that I could as a judge. I have done that, and I now renew that commitment. I will continue to do all that I can to be fair and considerate to everyone that comes before me.

I always strive to improve the fairness, efficiency, and effectiveness of our judicial process. This includes facilitating communication and cooperation among the various people and agencies involved, especially with criminal cases and young people. In 1995, we started an "After School Court" to deal with teenage drinkers and smokers in a serious and rehabilitative manner. In 2000, we started a "Wellness Court" to help misdemeanants overcome their addictions, and a "Youth Court" to provide a positive alternative to formal court proceedings and hold young offenders accountable to their community and peers.

We have seen significant progress and improvements, but there is always room for more. I want to continue working to enrich our legal system and our communities, while also preserving the rights and dignity of individual litigants in each case. I deeply hope to be remembered as a judge who was both compassionate and fair.

# Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation

## Judge Peter Froehlich, District Court, Juneau

*I. Judicial Council Evaluation.* The Alaska Judicial Council, a non-partisan citizens commission established by the Alaska Constitution, finds Judge Froehlich to be *Qualified* and recommends unanimously (5-0) that the public vote **Yes** to retain him as a district court judge.

II. Summary of Evaluation Information. A survey of 2,860 attorneys in Alaska rated Judge Froehlich on sixteen categories that are summarized in the adjacent graph. Attorneys rated Judge Froehlich 3.5 on a scale of 5 on overall judicial performance. He scored highest in the categories of promptness in making decisions (4.0), conduct free from impropriety (3.9) and controls courtroom (3.9). He scored lowest (3.4) in legal and factual analysis, knowledge of substantive law, and courtesy.

	Attorney Survey	Peace Officer Survey	Juror Survey	Court Employee Survey
Legal Ability	3.5			
Impartiality	3.6	4.0	4.7	3.9
Integrity	3.9	4.1		4.1
Temperament	3.6	4.0	4.8	3.9
Diligence	3.9	4.3		4.1
Special Skills	3.6	4.1		
Overall	3.5	4.0	4.7	3.9

Ratings are based on a one to five scale. Five is the best rating and three is "acceptable."

Rating Scale

5.0 = Excellent

4.0 = Good

3.0 = Acceptable

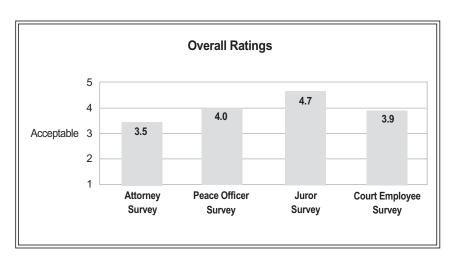
2,0 = Deficient

1.0 = Unacceptable

A survey of 1,704 peace and probation officers in Alaska rated Judge Froehlich on twelve categories that are summarized in the adjacent graph. Peace and probation officers rated Judge Froehlich 4.0 on overall judicial performance. He scored highest (4.4) in the categories of controls courtroom and promptness in making decisions. He scored 3.6 or better in all categories.

A survey of all jurors appearing before Judge Froehlich in 2000 and 2001 rated him 4.7 on a scale of 5 on overall performance. A survey of all court employees rated him 3.9 on a scale of 5 on overall performance.

The Council also completed a background investigation including a court records check, a disciplinary records check, a review of conflict of interest statements submitted to the court system and a review of financial disclosure statements submitted to the Alaska Public Offices Commission. Attorneys, peace officers, court employees and jurors were asked to submit written comments about the judge. The Council actively encouraged the public to comment, both in writing and in a statewide public hearing teleconference.



Recommendation: Vote YES to retain Judge Froehlich

Contact the Judicial Council at 1029 W. 3rd, Suite 201, Anchorage, AK 99501 (telephone: (907) 279-2526) for more detailed information, or review the information on our Internet site at:

www.ajc.state.ak.us